

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 013376

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ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 013376

COGARD FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 20 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

NYT'S SCHANBERG IN PP REPORTS 30 VESSELS WAIT AT SVN-KHMER
BORDER TO SAIL 71 MILES UP MEKONG TO PP THROUGH REBEL AREA.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 013376

CONVOY SAID TO AWAIT GKR GUNBOAT ESCORT. EXCEPT FOR LAST
15 MILES, ALMOST ALL RIVER IS UNDER INSURGENT CONTROL.
SCHANBERG QUOTES "AUTHORITATIVE" DIPLOMATIC SOURCES AND
SVN MIL SOURCE THAT CONVOY DEPARTURE IS IMMINENT, BUT

TIMING WILL DEPEND ON EVALUATION BY GKR AND US OFFICIALS OF RISKS OF RUNNING GANTLET. CONVOY WILL BE FIRST ATTEMPTED SINCE NEW YEAR'S DAY REBEL OFFENSIVE AND WILL BE LARGEST OF WAR. MOST SHIPS ARE OF PANAMANIAN OR LIBERIAN REGISTRY AND HAVE FILIPINO, ETHNIC CHINESE AND VIET CREWS. UNOFFICIAL REPORT SAID CONVOY ALSO WAITS FOR FANK TO CLEAR AT LEAST PART OF RIVER, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER SUCH OPERATION HAS BEGUN.

SCHANBERG NOTES MEKONG IS GKR'S LAST SUPPLY ROUTE FROM OUTSIDE WORLD. POINTS OUT GKR HAS STARTED GASOLINE RATIONING AND HAS CUT ELECTRIC POWER TO VIRTUALLY ENTIRE CITY EXCEPT FOR VITAL INSTALLATIONS -- REDUCTION OF 80-PCT. MENTIONS THAT BIRD AIR HAS STEPPED-UP AIRLIFT FROM THAILAND,

BUT FLIGHTS ONLY "SCRATCH THE SURFACE." SAYS SOURCE CLOSE TO SUPPLY SITUATION COMMENTED ON CAPITAL'S DISAPPEARING RICE AND FUEL SUPPLY AND EMPHASIZED NEED TO GET LARGE SUPPLY CONVOY IN QUICKLY.

REBEL GUNNERS FIRED 15 ROCKETS INTO POCHENTONG AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES, KILLING FIVE AND DESTROYING CIVILIAN DC-3 (WP; AP, SUN). FOUR ROCKETS HIT CENTRAL PP, KILLING FOUR CIVILIANS (AP, SUN).

OVER 500 GKR TROOPS CROSSED RONLE SAP RIVER IN DRIVE TO WIPE OUT INSURGENT STRONGHOLD, ACCORDING FIELD REPORTS; NO IMMEDIATE ENGAGEMENT REPORTED (WP; AP, SUN).

IN PARIS, GRUNK REPRESENTATIVES RELEASED NAMES OF NEWLY APPOINTED CABINET; MOST HAD SERVED IN EARLIER GOVTS HEADED BY SIHANOUK (WP).

IN LAOS, INFORMED SOURCES SAID US PILOT AND USAID WORKER WERE RESCUED SAFELY AFTER HELICOPTER WAS HIT BY PL GUNFIRE, AND MADE FORCED LANDING ABOUT 40 MILES NORTH OF VIENTIANE. NEITHER MAN IMMEDIATELY UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 013376

IDENTIFIED (AP, SUN).

NVA AND GVN FORCES CLASHED ALONG KHMER BORDER 55 MILES WEST OF SAIGON (WP; AP, SUN). MIL SPOKESMEN SAID COMMUNIST FORCES MOUNTED HEAVY BOMBARDMENT OF TAY NINH CITY, KILLING TWO; DAMAGE NOT REPORTED (UPI, PHINQ; WP; AP, SUN). GVN COMMAND SAID ITS POSITIONS SOUTH OF HOAIDUC DISTRICT TOWN, 75 MILES NE OF SAIGON, ALSO ASSAULTED, BUT ATTACK REPULSED (WP; AP, SUN).

VC SAID THEY SHOT DOWN UNMANNED US RECON PLANE OVER LOC NINH, BUT US EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT; US SOURCES SAID RECON OVER SVN IS CONTINUING

AND WASHINGTON DOES NOT VIEW THIS AS C-F VIOLATION
(AP, SUN).

IN SAIGON, POLICE STRUNG BARBED WIRE ACROSS ONE OF MAIN
STREETS TO BAR DELEGATES FROM ATTENDING FIRST MEETING
OF NEW OPPOSITION PARTY, POPULAR REVOLUTIONARY FRONT
FOR PEACE, ESTABLISHED AS COALITION OF ANTI-COMMUNIST
NATIONALIST OPPONENTS OF THIEU BELONGING TO SVN'S FOUR
MAIN RELIGIOUS GROUPS (WP).

CSM'S SOUTHERLAND IN SAIGON (1/17) REPORTS RELATIVELY
SMALL-SCALE ATTACKS HAVE BEEN STEADILY ERODING GVN
CONTROL IN DELTA. OFFICIAL STATISTICS INDICATED GREATER
DECREASE IN GVN CONTROL OCCURRED IN NOV THAN IN ANY OTHER

TIME SINCE TET OFFENSIVE. DATA FOR DEC NOT YET AVAILABLE,
BUT EXPECTED TO SHOW EVEN MORE SERIOUS DECLINE.
SOUTHERLAND NOTES MANY ATTACKS WERE CARRIED OUT BY
COMMUNIST REGIONAL AND LOCAL TROOPS, WITH LARGER UNITS
HEAVILY MANNED BY NVA HELD IN RESERVE. SOME MIL OBSERVERS
EXPECT HEAVIER DELTA FIGHTING THIS YEAR, WITH LARGER
UNITS INCREASINGLY COMING INTO ACTION. ONE OF CHIEF
AIMS MAY BE TO CUT HIGHWAY 4, MAIN LINK WITH SAIGON.
GVN OFFICIALS NOW SHOWING GREAT CONCERN OVER COMMUNIST
MOVEMENTS IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE ON KHMER BORDER; MANY
MIL ANALYSTS THINK PROV CAPITAL OF MOC HOA MAY BECOME
TARGET OF GROUND ATTACK.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 013376

2. CHINA

PRC MAKES PUBLIC NEW CONSTITUTION: MAO GIVEN ADDED TITLE
OF ARMED FORCES HEAD; POST OF STATE CHAIRMAN ABOLISHED;
CHOU RE-ELECTED PREMIER; ALL 29 MINISTERIAL POSTS FILLED
FOR FIRST TIME SINCE GPCR -- YEH CHIEN-YING NAMED
DEFENSE CHIEF. NEW CONSTITUTION SPELLS OUT RIGHT
OF FARMERS TO OWN SMALL PLOTS OF LAND FOR THEIR PERSONAL
BENEFIT, SAYS CHINESE HAVE RIGHT TO STRIKE, FREEDOM
OF SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND RELIGION, AND SEX EQUALITY
"IN ALL RESPECTS." BUT CHARTER OMITTS OLD CONSTITUTION'S
RIGHT TO CHOOSE PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND ITS FREEDOM OF
ARTISTIC AND SCIENTIFIC PURSUITS; DOCUMENT DECLARES
CHINA "WILL NEVER BECOME A SUPERPOWER" (WSJ; UPI, NYDN;
AP GLOBE, PHINQ, CHITRIB; NYT HAS CONSTITUTION TEXT
EXCERPTS).

NCNA BROADCASTS CHOU'S ADDRESS TO NPC, IN WHICH PREMIER
SAID US AND SOVIET ARE "BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL OPPRESSORS
AND EXPLOITERS TODAY, AND THEY ARE THE SOURCE OF A NEW
WORLD WAR." ADDED THAT WHILE SINO-US RELATIONS IMPROVED,
SINO-SOVIET AFFAIRS ARE NO BETTER; ADVISED PEOPLE OF ALL

COUNTRIES PREPARE FOR WAR (REUTER, AP, UPI).

AFP (PEKING) REPORTS DIPLOMATIC SOURCES WERE STRUCK BY STRESS LAID ON BELIEF IN JAN 18 PRC COMMUNIQUE THAT WORLD WAR CANNOT BE EXCLUDED, AND THAT ALL COUNTRIES MUST BE PREPARED FOR SUCH EVENTUALITY. SOURCES ALSO DREW ATTENTION IN THIS CONTEXT TO WHAT SEEMED SPECIAL REFERENCE TO EUROPE, NOTING COMMUNIQUE SAID CHINESE SHOULD "ALLY OURSELVES WITH ALL THE FORCES THAT CAN BE ALLIED WITH" (WP).

NEW DELHI REPORTS GROUP OF NAGAS BOUND FOR PRC WERE HALTED AND THREE KILLED, 70 CAPTURED. DOCUMENTS SEIZED FROM THEM WERE SAID TO CONTAIN PROMISE OF PEKING'S

AVIATION TRAINING HELP AND PLEDGE TO NAGALAND INSURGENTS OF CHINESE MATERIAL, MORAL, PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT (NYT).

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 013376

3. JAPAN

WSJ'S PEARLSTINE IN TOKYO NOTES FIRST QUARTER DECLINE IN EXPORT ORDERS FOR STEEL, SAYS INDUSTRY EXECS ESTIMATE 1975 EXPORTS OF 33 MILLION TONS, DOWN FROM LAST YEAR'S RECORD 36 MILLION TONS, VALUED AT 11 BILLION DOLS. SEES DECLINE DUE TO WEAKNESS IN US AUTO, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES, MORE COMPETITION FROM EUROPE AND LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE IN LDOS TO FINANCE NEEDED IMPORTS.

NYT'S HALLORAN IN TOKYO SAYS JAPANESE BUSINESS EXECS, REGARDED AS BIGGEST OF BIG-TIME SPENDERS IN RECENT YEARS, HAVE HAD THEIR PURSE STRINGS TIED IN KNOTS AS FIRMS ECONOMIZE TO DEAL WITH INFLATION-RECESSION. DRASTIC CUTBACKS NOT CONSIDERED ALL BAD. CITES ONE EXEC THAT FRUGALITY INCREASES EFFICIENCY, CUTS TIME WASTED ENTERTAINING. BUT AS YET NO ONE KNOWS WHETHER CUTS ARE PASSING PHENOMENON, OR MARK FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN JAPANESE WAY OF DOING BUSINESS.

JOC'S CULLISON IN TOKYO SAYS MAJOR FIRMS RUSHING PREPARATIONS TO FLOAT BIG BOND ISSUES ABROAD TO FINANCE FOREIGN INVESTMENT WITH DOLLARS, EURODOLLARS ON WHICH INTEREST RATES DECLINING RAPIDLY. GOJ AND BOJ OFFICIALS HAVE QUIETLY SPREAD WORD "THEY WOULD NOT OBJECT TOO STRENUOUSLY" EVEN THOUGH BOND ISSUES COULD UNDERMINE DOMESTIC TIGHT MONEY POLICY.

SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO WRITES ABOUT GRANDMOTHERLY FARMER'S WIFE, ACTIVE IN ANTI-POLLUTION MOVEMENT, WHO LEADS ATTACK ON MAJOR BANKS -- WITH VIRTUALLY WORTHLESS ONE YEN COIN

-- TO GET THEM TO STOP LENDING MONEY TO INDUSTRIES WHICH DESTROY ENVIRONMENT. EACH DEPOSIT, WITHDRAWAL OF ONE YEN COSTS BANKS 300 YEN TO RECORD. CITES SPOKESMAN THAT BANKS ARE CAUGHT BETWEEN DEMANDS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND FOR FUNDS FROM FIRMS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE GO BANKRUPT. IN ANOTHER PIECE ON JAPAN'S NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE, WHICH HE AND FAMILY RECENTLY JOINED, SEIDEN VISIT TO DOCTOR IS CHEAPER THAN CUP OF COFFEE, AND HOSPITAL IS MOST INEXPENSIVE PLACE TO SPEND NIGHT IN WORLD'S MOST COSTLY CITY.
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 013376

GLOBE'S STORIN IN TOKYO REVIEWS RECENT RASH OF INCIDENTS AFFECTING 10 YEAR OLD COMPUTER-RUN HIGH-SPEED BULLET TRAIN, WHICH HAVE RAISED NEW QUESTIONS IN PUBLIC MIND

ABOUT "FRUITS OF JAPANESE TECHNOLOGY."

4. AUSTRALIA

GLOBE REPORTS INTERVIEW OF STONEHOUSE, RUNAWAY MP. HE SAID DISILLUSION WITH BRITISH SOCIETY PROMPTED HIM TO DISAPPEAR FROM MIAMI, SECRETLY ENTER AUSTRALIA, AFTER CONSULTING AUSSIE PSYCHIATRIST.

JOC SYDNEY CITES GOA FORECAST THAT WOOL, BEEF EXPORTS TO DECLINE 32 AND 46 PERCENT, RESPECTIVELY.

5. INDONESIA

AFP JAKARTA (WP) CITES PERTAMINA ANNOUNCEMENT JAN. 19 OF ANOTHER OIL STRIKE ON BUYU ISLAND, OFF EAST BORNEO COAST.

6. PAPUA

SEPARATISTS DECLARED PAPUA REPUBLIC YESTERDAY IN PORT MORESBY, INSTALLED REBEL GOVT CLAIMING BROAD PUBLIC SUPPORT, AND VOWED TO FREE REGION FROM BOTH PNG CENTRAL GOVT AND AUSTRALIA. MOVE LED BY PAPUAN SEPARATIST JOSEPHINE ABAIJEH, AND SUSPENDED SENIOR PUBLIC OFFICIAL, SIMON KAUMI (REUTER, SUN; ABRIDGED IN WP, GLOBE).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

7. CHINA

WP'S GREENWAY, IN HK, SEES NEW PRC CONSTITUTION REPRESENTING COMPROMISE BETWEEN VARIOUS PRC POLITICAL FACTIONS; HOWEVER, IT IS COMPROMISE IN WHICH FLEXIBLE, PRAGMATIC POLICY TOWARD BUILDING STATE SOCIALISM HAS

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 013376

PREVAILED, AND IT REPRESENTS MODERATE MORE THAN RADICAL POINTS OF VIEW.

SUN'S ISAACS, IN HK, SAYS NEW PRC CONSTITUTION, WHILE ALMOST COMPLETELY REWRITTEN FROM 1954 DOCUMENT, DOES NOT INDICATE ANY SUDDEN SHIFTS IN CHINESE POLICY OR PRACTICE; RATHER, IT FORMALIZES VAST CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN LAST TWO DECADES. AT SAME TIME, IN SOME RESPECTS IT ALSO INDICATED RESTORATION OF INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE FALLEN INTO DISUSE -- PARTICULARLY IN STRUCTURE OF PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVTS.

LELYVELD (NYT), IN HK, NOTES CONSTITUTION'S PREDICTABLE EMPHASIS ON PARTY'S COMMAND OVER GOVT AVOIDS QUESTION OF WHO WILL COMMAND PARTY AFTER MAO'S FINAL DEPARTURE FROM SCENE. SAYS IF THERE IS DISAGREEMENT NOW, IT IS CONSIDERED MORE LIKELY TO BE ON THAT QUESTION THAN ON ISSUES OF CONSTITUTIONAL NATURE. OBSERVES THAT ANALYSTS SAY IF THAT DISAGREEMENT IS SERIOUS ENOUGH TO HAVE KEPT MAO FROM VISITING NPC IN PEKING, HE HAS PROBABLY NOT BEEN GETTING HIS WAY.

CSM STAFF WRITER SEES AS STRIKING FEATURE OF NEW PRC GOVT THE STRONGER BACKSTOPPING FOR CHOU WITH EXPANDED LIST OF DEPUTY PREMIERS FROM FIVE TO 12. CONSTITUTION'S CHANGES WERE NOT ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE STRUGGLE. BUT RECENT OFFICIAL STATEMENTS INDICATE THAT WORSENING INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS BECAME DECISIVE FACTOR IN NPC DEBATE. CHINA FORESEES PERIOD OF SERIOUS, POSSIBLY EXTREME, ECON/POLITICAL CHAOS AHEAD IN WORLD AT LARGE, AND SHE WANTS TO BE CERTAIN OF HER OWN STRENGTH.

CSM'S MUTCH, IN BONN, OBSERVES THAT PEKING RECEIVED FRG'S STRAUSS AS ONE WHO SHARES CHINA'S SKEPTICISM OF SOVIET INTENTIONS. SAYS SUCCESS OF STRAUSS TRIP IS EMBARRASSMENT TO SCHMIDT, SET TO VISIT CHINA BEFORE SUMMER; IN FACT, SCHMIDT ISSUED PROTEST TO PRC THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS ABOUT STRAUSS INVITATION. WITH ADDED "TOPPING" OF MAO TALK WITH STRAUSS, INCIDENT HAS BECOME "BIT OF DELECTABLE POLITICAL PIE" IN BONN.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 013376

NYT'S AUSTIN REVIEWS C.P. FITZGERALD'S "CHINA'S THREE THOUSAND YEARS." SAYS BOOK COULD NOT BE PUBLISHED MORE OPPORTUNELY, AND CHINA'S HISTORY HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN TOLD MORE INCISIVELY. RE FAIRBANK'S "CHINA PERCEIVED," CONTENDS NO ONE IS BETTER QUALIFIED FOR

THIS "JOURNEY OF THE MIND" IN SINO-US RELATIONS; BOOK
MAKES "STIMULATING GUIDE TO THE ROADS TRAVELED AND THE
POSSIBILITIES AHEAD" (S-N, JAN 17).

IN SECOND OF SERIES ON CHINA VISIT, BARBARA GREENFIELD
DESCRIBES "BEAUTIFUL, ROMANTIC HANG CHOW," HER PURCHASE
OF SWATH OF IMPERIAL JADE SILK, AND VISIT TO TEA
PLANTATION (PHINQ).

8. HONG KONG

WP'S GREENWAY IN HK (1/17) COMMENTS ON LATEST IN SERIES
OF PERIODIC BRITISH FLAPS ABOUT CORRUPTION AND COLONIAL

EXPLOITATION IN THIS "LAST IMPORTANT JEWEL OF EMPIRE."
BRITISH TV SHOWS DOCUMENTARIES ON HK POLICE CORRUPTION,
WHILE DAILY EXPRESS CARRIES SERIES BY FORMER SUPERINTENDANT
OF POLICE TELLING HOW HE MADE MILLION DOLS IN GRAFT BEFORE
BEING CONVICTED FOR VIOLATING PREVENTION OF BRIBERY
ORDINANCE, SERVING EIGHT-MONTH JAIL TERM. IN RECENT
EDITORIAL DAILY EXPRESS PROTESTED THAT UK PRESIDES OVER
GANGSTER-LIKE ESTABLISHMENT IN HK, WHERE, OFFICIALS ADMIT,
KICKBACKS AND BRIBES ARE WAY OF LIFE.

NEARLY ANYTHING GOES IN HK, WHERE PROFIT IS MOTIVE FORCE
AND CAPITALISM IS LESS FETTERED BY GOVT REGULATION THAN
NEARLY ANYWHERE ELSE. BUT GREENWAY NOTES RECENT ARRIVAL
OF U'SECY FOR COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS SENT SHIVERS DOWN
SPINES OF LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, WHO FEAR LABOR GOVT MAY
BE SERIOUS ABOUT REFORMING EMBARRASSINGLY LAX LABOR
LAWS.

WHETHER IT WILL IS OPEN QUESTION, BUT GREENWAY THINKS
LABOR GOVT CERTAINLY MEANS TO PAY LESS FOR DEFENSE
EITHER BY GETTING MORE MONEY OUT OF HK, OR BY CUTTING
SIZE OF 10,000-MAN GARRISON. UK FORCES MAINTAIN
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 013376

INTERNAL SECURITY; ALSO DISCOURAGE PRC LOCAL MILITIA
UNITS FROM MOVING ACROSS BORDER ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE,
BUT COULD ONLY, ACCORDING TO BRITISH OFFICER, GIVE
PLA "INTERESTING AFTERNOON."

9. KOREA

WP'S OBERDORFER WRITES FROM SEOUL THAT DONG-A ILBO,
ONE OF GREAT EDITORIAL VOICES IN ASIA, IS FIGHTING
FOR ITS LIFE AGAINST PHANTOM ENEMY, WHICH TAKES AWAY
ADVERTISERS IN RETALIATION AGAINST FREE REPORTING BY
PAPER AND ITS SUBSIDIARY, DONG-A RADIO. AD REVENUES
HAS BEEN CUT BY 60 PERCENT BY THIS CAMPAIGN, AND
MANY FORMER ADVERTISERS ADMIT SUCCUMBING TO KCIA

THREATS.

PAST TWO YEARS UNDER MARTIAL LAW HAVE SEEN OVERT, COVERT CENSORSHIP, KCIA AGENTS IN ITS NEWSROOM, AND -SELF-CENSORSHIP" DECREED BY PARK LAST SUMMER ON GROUNDS OF CONTINUING NK THREAT. BRIEF RELAXATION OF "ILLEGAL QUESTIONING" AND OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE -- BEFORE PRES FORD VISIT -- HAS NOW GIVEN WAY TO EFFICIENT, BLOODLESS WAY TO CRACK DOWN ON INDEPENDENCE, BY BAN ON ADVERTISING.

TO HELP OFFSET LOSS OF REVENUE, CITIZENS, CHURCH, SCHOOL AND CIVIC GROUPS HAVE BEGUN TO PLACE SMALL

"SYMPATHY ADS" BY HUNDREDS. EVEN US EMBASSY HAS PLACED TWO DISPLAY ADS, FOR USIA MAGAZINE AND TRADE SHOW, TO GET GREATEST EXPOSURE AT LOWEST COST ACCORDING TO TIGHTLY SMILING EMBASSY OFFICIALS. BUT ALL SEOUL SEES ADS AS GESTURE OF SUPPORT.

WHILE IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER PARK WANTS TO PUT DONG-A ILBO OUT OF BUSINESS, OR NEGOTIATE DEAL TO LET ADVERTISERS COME BACK IN RETURN FOR EDITORIAL SILENCE, OBERDORFER SAYS CAMPAIGN HAS STIFFENED BACKS OF DONG-A ILBO MANAGERS, EDITORS AND REPORTERS, WHO NOW FEEL THEY "MUST KEEP FAITH WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPORTING" THEM.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 013376

10. INDOCHINA

GWERTZMAN (NYT) REFERS TO SECSTATE'S BUSINESS WEEK INTERVIEW, NOTES HAK AND SECDEF HAVE ATTRACTED C
<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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